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Vance Gilbert to Perform at IWU's Blue Moon Coffeehouse

BLOOMINGTON, Ill.--Contemporary acoustic guitarist Vance Gilbert will perform a two-set concert at Illinois Wesleyan University's Blue Moon Coffeehouse, Saturday, Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.

Free and open to the public, the concert will be held in the Main Lounge of Memorial Student Center, 104 E. University Ave., Bloomington.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Flavored coffees, herbal teas and light pastries will be available.

Gilbert, a former jazz singer, is known for his smooth, full-bodied voice and thoughtful, heartfelt lyrics. The *Boston Globe* describes Gilbert as "that rare performer for whom people lean forward in their seats as eagerly between songs as they do during them. These 'Vance-Heads' see him over and over again, always expecting to be surprised, never being disappointed."

Gilbert's first two albums, *Edgewise* (1994) and *Fugitives* (1996), have found significant niches on New Adult Contemporary and Adult Alternative radio.

In 1998, Gilbert released his third album, *Shaking Off Gravity*, on the Rounder/Philo label. Recorded at his home in Boston and using state-of-the-art technology, Gilbert took time to hone his guitar and vocal performances to a razor-sharp edge.

"This album is full of pops, clicks, hisses and flubbed notes. It is also full of performances," said Gilbert. "This is the one I've always wanted."

Gilbert, the 1997 Kerrville Music Award's Vocalist of the Year, has shared the stage with such performers as Aretha Franklin, Jay Leno, Bill Cosby, Arlo Guthrie, Mary Chapin Carpenter, Joan Baez and Shawn Colvin.

About the Blue Moon Coffeehouse

The Blue Moon Coffeehouse has been bringing free, acoustic music concerts to the IWU campus and the Bloomington-Normal community since 1992. For more information on Vance Gilbert and the Blue Moon Coffeehouse series, call the Blue Moon Concert Infoline at (309) 556-3815. To join the mailing list or to send a comment, the e-mail address is bluemoon@titan.iwu.edu.

Previous Blue Moon Coffeehouse performers include Ani DiFranco, Carrie Newcomer, Sons of the Never Wrong and IWU alums, Al and Andi Tauber.

About Illinois Wesleyan University

IWU, founded in 1850, enrolls about 2,070 students in a College of Liberal Arts, and individual schools of Music, Theatre Arts, Art and Nursing. Since 1994, these facilities have been added to the IWU campus: a \$15 million athletics and recreation center, a \$25 million science center, a \$6.8 million residence hall, a \$5.1 million Center for Liberal Arts and a \$1.65 million baseball stadium. Construction is underway on a \$23 million library and \$6 million student center. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance Magazine* ranks Illinois Wesleyan University 12th among the nation's 1,600 private colleges in providing a top-quality education at an affordable cost. Also sharing IWU's ranks are Princeton and Dartmouth.